

# AN ACT OF PRAISE AND PURPOSE

THE BIRTHDAY THANKSGIVING OF  
THE FAMILY OF TOCH IN  
WESTMINSTER ABBEY  
3RD DECEMBER  
1927



THEY WERE ALL CLOTHED IN THE LIVERIE  
OF A SOLEMNE AND GREAT FESTIVITIE

*Under the great roof of Westminster Abbey where the family of Toc 14  
must needs be widely spread, it will be found that the responses are best made  
slowly and in a clear voice, pausing a little at each comma and stop.*

AN ACT OF PRAISE AND PURPOSE  
BEING THE ORDER OF SERVICE USED IN  
WESTMINSTER ABBEY AT THE BIRTHDAY  
FESTIVAL OF TOC H ON SATURDAY 3RD  
DECEMBER MCMXXVII

*During the assembly of the congregation the bells will be rung, and the organ will play. Processions of the Padres of Toc H and of the banners of Branches and Groups will enter and take their places before the service begins.*

*All being assembled, the Hymn following will be sung :*

HAIL joyful Light, O worship and praise  
Father and Son and Spirit Divine ;  
First and the Last, the Ancient of Days  
Pow'r and dominion ever be Thine.

Light of all Light, Thou measureless love  
Guide Thou our feet and lighten our way ;  
Now by Thy Rising lead us above :  
Thine is salvation, Thou art the Day.

High over all, Love sceptred and crown'd  
King everlasting, splendour of Light,  
When we behold Thee let us be found  
Worthy to shine as stars in Thy sight.

*Amen.*

*The Family remains standing while it joins in the Bidding Prayers :*

BIDDING PRAYERS

PADRE :

Albeit, He may not worthily be praised, who at this time sent Redemption unto His people, yet may we well remember His mercy and truth touching this House so wonderfully made. For He hath helped us, He hath kept us, He hath succoured us, He hath sheltered us, He hath spared us, He hath brought us to this hour.

THE FOUNDER PADRE, AS SPOKESMAN FOR THE FOUNDATION MEMBERS :

Once we were many ; then were we few ; then again were we many, now become a multitude ; but of the first few, how few we are who still remain ; and of that few, some now grow old, and some are but now gone to be with Him. Yet this is our witness : that once, in the wilderness of war, He prepared a table and a place of joyful gladness for the true-hearted. There, half-forgotten friends walked once again with their forgotten Master ; and, above the tumult of death, overheard a nobler music for the lives of men.

MEMBERS OF 1915-1919 : Thus far our witness.

ALL REPLY :

And we know your witness is true.

MEMBERS OF " 1920—? " FOLLOW ON :

Hear now our part. The Spring whereat they drank, has now become a wide river ; gathering from East and West, and stretching well nigh from sea to sea. We also, in our day, would learn to face trial with exaltation ; hate with love ; our passions with His most Holy Passion. We too, would learn the stern and simple way of attaining unto Him, who dwells in stillness at the heart of energy.

ALL :

Wherefore we, who are thus gathered together, high and low, rich and poor, one with another, would now compass ourselves about with songs of deliverance, and so pray that, by the mercy of the Most High, out of weakness we may be made strong.

PADRE :

Let us then pray for this our Family, that it may be ordained to bring forth fruit, and that its fruit may remain. Let us ask for the unity of the Spirit in our counsels, the bond of peace among our leaders, and righteousness of life throughout our membership, that the hunger of our hopes may be satisfied in a day of divine destiny.



And so much the more, as ye see this day approaching,  
be instant thus to pray :

*All, kneeling, shall say the Lord's Prayer :*

### Our Father

- v. It is good to hold fast by God :  
R. For no man hath quickened his own soul.  
v. A friend loveth at all times :  
R. And a brother is born for adversity.  
v. Courage, and let us go up  
R. To the mountain of the Lord.  
v. O House of Jacob, come ye :  
R. Let us walk in the light of the Lord.  
v. He will teach us of his ways :  
R. We will walk in his paths.  
v. Teach me to do :  
R. For Thou art my God.  
v. O make us free from softness :  
R. And yet on fire with Love.  
v. For we are not of the night nor of the darkness :  
R. But children of the day.

### HYMN

LET the most Blessed be our guide  
If it be His blessed will,  
Unto His gate, unto His fold,  
Up to His holy hill.

And let Him never suffer us  
To swerve or turn aside,  
From His free grace and holy ways,  
Whate'er shall us betide.

And let Him gather them that shine  
Who left us here behind.  
Lord, make us pray we may be Thine  
With all our heart and mind.

*Amen.*

*All remain standing to offer Praise and Thanksgiving as follows :*

A CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Let us now offer Praise and Thanksgiving.*

Builders of Toc H, our Master bids us offer thanksgiving with those of every age and clime who have endeavoured to build for Him, and have accomplished more than they have known. Let us, then, thank God our Father whose joy is always joy in work well done, each for our tiny share in this brave building.

*We thank Thee, O Father.*

We thank Thee for the men and women, who, having seen the vision, have sought and continue to seek courage and grace to make the dream come true.

*We thank Thee, O Father.*

We thank Thee for the guidance that has never failed to lead us on through failure to a fresh attempt, and for the patience, and impatience too, wherewith Thou hast inspired us.

*We thank Thee, O Father.*

We thank Thee for the dangers so wonderfully averted, for the mistakes so wonderfully made good ; for the disappointments out of which has sprung a deeper seeking and a truer learning.

*We thank Thee, O Father.*

We thank Thee for the leaders, our fellow-servants for Christ's sake, for Padres and Pilots, Jobmasters, Secretaries and Wardens ; for those serving on Councils and Committees ; for all, who by their steadfastness and good example, have won men's wills towards Thee.

*We thank Thee, O Father.*

For all the humblest, humdrum duties performed as in Thy sight ; for house and office staffs, both young and old ; for paid and unpaid helpers ; for all by whom this service is performed as one of willing freedom.

*We thank Thee, O Father.*

We thank Thee for all men and women in the Family of Toc H, who, bearing no special office, and having no special skill, have yet been called to be His fellow-workers.

*We thank Thee, O Father.*

*Then follows the Hymn "Come, Kindred, Upstand," during which H.R.H. the Patron will be conducted to the steps of the Sanctuary to present the Crosses from the graves of Unknown Soldiers to Johannesburg and Rugby Branches and Melton Mowbray Group.*

COME, Kindred, upstand in the valour of Jesus,  
And praise Him and plight Him the troth of true men.  
His yoke we are breasting together will ease us  
When back at the pick and the lathe and the pen.

How honest His harness ! O be ye then humble  
To know that He gives us a thing to be done !  
Let us laugh at each set-back, and learn from each stumble,  
With His hand to help us, His light leading on.

The mists that lay round us are thinning and breaking,  
The road it runs up to the dawn on the hills.  
Trudge on with your tools to your great undertaking—  
To lighten the load of young Everyman's ills.

Trudge on, singing praise for a spirit twice gifted  
Through lads in the line from their Lord on His Tree.  
As strong stars at midnight, His Lamp they up-lifted,  
And strode to their task like tall ships running free.

We are debtors to them, who with Lamps ever burning  
Foregather this instant in heed to His call.  
Re-union they bought us by never returning,  
And homeless, they builded a House for us all.

*Amen.*

*The Family is seated while the Dean of Westminster reads as follows :—*

*Hear the words of the Gospel, written in the Seventh Chapter of St. Matthew, beginning at the twenty-fourth verse.*

WHOSOEVER heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock :

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon the house ; and it fell not, for it was founded upon a rock.

And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand :

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house ; and it fell : and great was the fall of it.

And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine.

For he taught them, as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

*All shall now kneel to offer their prayers :*

A LITTLE LITANY OF PURPOSE

*Let us offer our prayers for a Right Purpose.*

Let us ask God to help us to do all that He has commanded, that so Thou may be a true House to Him, not made with human hands alone.

*So help us, Lord, to build it.*

Let it stand, Lord, as a House of Witness for the truth ; a place wherein Thou truly mayest be found.

*So help us, Lord, to build it.*

Let it stand, Lord, all beautiful by the faithful following of Thy laws, arrayed in health and happiness, bold in design and prudent in right order.

*So help us, Lord, to build it.*

Let it stand, Lord, though yet incomplete, yet vindicating, day by day, more fully Thy purpose in its fashioning.

*So help us, Lord, to build it.*

Let it stand, Lord, ever at the heart of life ; unavoidable in the full tide of noon-day ; midmost where life runs strongest ; that those who see it may thank Thee and take courage.

*So help us, Lord, to build it.*



O GOD, Who hast filled the earth with the glory of Thy presence, and hast led Thy servants of old to build up Talbot House to be Thy dwelling place, grant that Thy sons and daughters who come within its influence may ever find Thee here ; and going to and fro may truly take Thee with them. May we so build our lives that they may also be Houses wherein Thy Spirit dwells, filled with that strength and beauty which only comes from Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Mindful of many brethren in distant lands, who keep festival with us to-night, let us pray.*

O ETERNAL GOD, who watchest over us all, grant that the friendships formed between us here in Toc H may neither through sin be broken, nor hereafter through worldly cares be forgotten ; but that, bound together across the world by the unseen chain of Thy love, we may be drawn nearer to Thee and nearer to each other, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*During the singing of the following Hymn, the Collection will be taken, to be given (after defraying the expenses of this Service) as a Birthday Offering to Neville Talbot for the work of the Pretoria Diocese.*

Out of Many into One  
Are we fashioned this night.  
God, to us no winter sun,  
Bids the lame lead on to light.  
Father, who art Fount and Thirst !  
Christ, men's Hunger and their Meat !  
Spirit-knit, though world dispersed,  
Stand we fearing, round, Thy feet.

*Choir only :* Out of violence, virtue shone.  
This one thing defied the stream,  
Where the spate of death swept on,  
Stood God's Torture-Tree supreme.  
Rising from a Flanders tomb,  
While the world yet deem'd Him dead,  
His the lamp that lights our room,  
His the Hand that breaks our Bread.

Out of heart-break, hope is born.  
Rough the road to Promised Lands.  
Bruising flint and piercing thorn ?  
Fire and tinder 'neath your hands !  
Thus, though sword and sea divide,  
God's love knows no East and West.  
Where's the man would stand aside  
From the tide of being blest ?

*Choir only :* Blest is he who lives in thrall  
To the empery of good.  
Blest the Master of us all,  
Reigning richly from His Rood.  
God, who makest glad our youth,  
Keep us from presumptuous pride.  
So may we live out Thy truth,  
And constrain Thee to abide.

Grey-flecked head, and eager boy,  
Gownsmen, townsman, pastor, priest,  
Troubadours of toil and joy,  
Gather to this Household feast.  
In the tuneful hearts of friends  
Better music ne'er was blown :  
From the land where hatred ends,  
Comes " *Amen* " in antiphon.

*Amen.*

*The Choir and Clergy, followed by the Banner-bearers of Branches and Groups, will then pass in procession round the Abbey while the following Hymns are sung :*

I

Bless'd be the day when moved I was  
A pilgrim for to be,  
And blessed also be the Cause  
'That thereto moved me.

Bless'd work, that drove me back to pray  
To strive to be sincere ;  
To take my Cross up day by day,  
And serve the Lord with fear.

Yet long it is since I began  
And little have I done,  
God give me grace to play the man,  
And heed my heart and tongue.

To seize the road from doubt to faith  
For feet beside mine own,  
To climb from self to purer breath,  
Unknown and yet well-known.

With Master Fearing, may I fear  
My God and be afraid  
Of doing anything while here  
That may have Him betrayed.

With servant Great-heart, who arose  
The children's Guide to be,  
For those who trust me, I'd oppose  
Each Giant enemy.

He that me seeks shall now be sought.  
Surrendered here I stand,  
A truant eager to be taught  
His purpose for my hand.

Life, like an unencumbered flood,  
Leaps to the sea and sky.  
At last, beyond the slough of mood,  
Master, Thy man am I.

*Amen.*

## II

YE watchers and ye holy ones,  
Bright Seraphs, Cherubim and Thrones,  
Raise the glad strain, Alleluya!  
Cry out Dominions, Princedoms, Powers,  
Virtues, Archangels, Angels' choirs,  
Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya!

*Choir only:* O higher than the Cherubim,  
More glorious than the Seraphim,  
Lead their praises, Alleluya!  
Thou Bearer of the eternal Word,  
Most gracious, magnify the Lord,  
Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya!

*Choir only* : Respond, ye souls in endless rest,  
Ye Patriarchs and Prophets blest,  
Alleluya, Alleluya !  
Ye holy Twelve, ye Martyrs strong,  
All Saints triumphant, raise the song  
Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya !

O friends, in gladness let us sing,  
Supernal anthems echoing,  
Alleluya, Alleluya !  
To God the Father, God the Son,  
And God the Spirit, Three in One,  
Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya !  
*Amen.*

*At the Grave of the Unknown Warrior the Procession will pause, while the following is said :*

v. Well done, thou good and faithful servant.  
r. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.

*Let us remember our Elder Brethren.*

O THOU, Who art Heroic Love, keep alive in our hearts that adventurous spirit which makes men scorn the way of safety, so that Thy will be done. For so only, O Lord, shall we be worthy of those courageous souls who in every age have ventured all in obedience to Thy call, and for whom the trumpets sounded on the other side ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THROUGH the night of doubt and sorrow  
Onward goes the pilgrim band,  
Singing songs of expectation,  
Marching to the Promised Land.  
Clear before us through the darkness,  
Glams and burns the guiding Light ;  
Brother clasps the hand of brother,  
Stepping fearless through the night.

*Choir only* : One, the light of God's own Presence  
O'er His ransom'd people shed,  
Chasing far the gloom and terror,  
Brightening all the path we tread ;



One the object of our journey,  
One the faith which never tires,  
One the earnest looking forward,  
One the hope our God inspires :

One the strain that lips of thousands  
Lift as from the heart of one ;  
One the conflict, one the peril,  
One the march in God begun :  
One the gladness of rejoicing  
One the far eternal shore,  
Where the One Almighty Father  
Reigns in love for evermore.

*Amen.*

*All shall now kneel for the concluding prayers.*

*Let us join in the Prayer of Toc H.*

O GOD, Who hast so wonderfully made Toc H, and set men in it to see their duty as Thy will, teach us to live together in love and joy and peace ; to check all bitterness ; to disown discouragement ; to practise thanksgiving, and to leap with joy to any task for others.

Strengthen the good thing thus begun ; that with gallant and high-hearted happiness, we may work for Thy kingdom in the wills of men. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

v. The Lord be with you.  
R. And with thy spirit.  
v. Let us bless the Lord.  
R. Thanks be to God.

Now the God of Peace, Who brought again from the dead that great Master of men by the blood of the everlasting covenant, even our Lord Jesus, make us perfect in every good work to do His will. *Amen.*

*The Congregation will remain in their places until H.R.H. the Patron has left the Abbey.*

